

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) An oral steroid hormone product having improved dissolution and release rate properties, said product comprising at least one steroid hormone in admixture with ~~an excipient~~ lactose, wherein substantially all of said at least one steroid hormone is in non-crystalline form and wherein said ~~excipient~~ lactose stabilizes said hormone in its non-crystalline form.
2. Cancelled
3. (original) The steroid hormone product of claim 1 wherein the steroid hormone is at least one of a progestin and an estrogen
4. (original) The steroid hormone product of claim 3, wherein the steroid hormone is a progestin selected from the group consisting of norgestimate, norgestrel, levonorgestrel, norethindrone and desogestrel.
5. Cancelled
6. (original) The steroid hormone product of claim 3, wherein the product is one of an oral contraceptive product and a hormone replacement therapy product.
7. (original) The steroid hormone product of claim 6, wherein the product is an oral contraceptive product comprising from about 10  $\mu$ g to about 50 ug of an estrogen and/or from about 50  $\mu$ g to about 300  $\mu$ g of a progestin.
8. (original) The steroid hormone product of claim 7, wherein the progestin is norgestimate ~~and the excipient is lactose~~.

Claims 9-17 Cancelled.